

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Ester****Federal Tax ID: 27-1297959****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

John Trigg Ester Library - Library Design and Construction

State Funding Requested: \$50,000
One-Time Need

House District: 8 / D**Brief Project Description:**

Planning, construction and design the new John Trigg Ester Library and other improvements.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$855,823**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Local Funds	\$48,000	09			\$10,000	11
Total	\$48,000				\$10,000	

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This sum will be sufficient to start work on the first phase of the new library building. With in-kind contributions and other funding sources, the John Trigg Ester Library will become a small but functional community library that is within walking or short driving distance for people living in the area. The community otherwise must to drive to Fairbanks to use the public library.

The library, which serves the area of Ester and vicinity (as well as some residents of Fairbanks and Nenana) was founded in 1999 and became part of the ECA in 2004. It has received the enthusiastic support of the community. The community has already contributed to library membership (about 150 people, plus numerous nonmembers

users), fund-raising, and volunteer hours (more than 1,250 hours in 2008). The library is in the process of forming an independent nonprofit 501(c) (3) charitable organization and will separate from the ECA in 2009. However, the library has outgrown the small rental space currently housing its approximately 5,000 volumes (another 4,000 are in storage). The ECA purchased land in 2006 on which to build a new library building. A property survey and soils test has been done and a site selected and cleared. In-kind contributions for construction include \$21,000 worth of promissory notes already obtained and signed by local contractors and tradesmen, as well as additional labor and supplies (value around \$6,000) used in summer 2008 to build an associated gazebo on adjoining land; also other grants and possibly loans from various agencies (search for these funds is in progress).

Project Timeline:

The state funds will be used right away to begin purchasing materials, planning and starting work on the library foundation. Expected finish by 2012.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

John Trigg Ester Library

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Deirdre Helfferich
Address: PO Box 468
Ester, AK 99725
Phone Number: (907)479-3368
Email: library@esterrepublic.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

John Trigg Ester Library

part of the Ester Community Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 468
Ester, AK 99725
(907) 479-3368
library@esterrepublic.com
www.esterlibrary.org • www.esterlibrary.com

request for capital project funding, December 14, 2008

To: Representative David Guttenberg
State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Ester Community Association (ECA) respectfully requests funding in the sum of \$50,000 for the **John Trigg Ester Library Building Construction Project**. This will be sufficient to start work on the foundation of the new library building.

The library, which serves the area of Ester and vicinity (as well as some residents of Fairbanks and Nenana), was founded in 1999 and became part of the ECA in 2004. It has received the enthusiastic support of the community, in library membership (about 150 people, plus numerous nonmember users), fundraising, and volunteer hours (more than 1,250 hours in 2008). The library is in the process of forming an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and will separate from the ECA in 2009.

However, the library has outgrown the small rental space currently housing its approximately 5,000 volumes (another 4,000 are in storage). The ECA purchased land in 2006 on which to build a new library building. A property survey and soils test has been done and a site selected and cleared. In-kind contributions for construction include \$21,000 worth of promissory notes already obtained and signed by local contractors and tradesmen, as well as additional labor and supplies (value around \$6,000) used in summer 2008 to build an associated gazebo on adjoining land; also other grants and possibly loans from various agencies (search for these funds is in progress).

The land was purchased for \$27,000; donations from the community at three annual fundraisers (a Lallapalooza, the Li-Berry Music Festival, and the footrace Readers on the Run) enabled us to pay off the note by August 2008. The three annual fundraisers see high turnout and support from the community, and participation in the design and planning meetings for library construction is good. A local community radio station, Fairbanks Open Radio, and its supporters are interested in participating in the development of a music library, recording studio, and broadcasting office as part of the library; the library's central location is in the area FOR hopes to base its operation and has offered to help with fundraising for the building.

We are designing and will construct a ~3,500 sq ft community library building. Library design is being undertaken by USKH, Inc. A site plan has been developed and is on line; the lead architect is Gary Pohl and the final design is expected at our next planning meeting, on January 18, 2009). The library is to include sustainable LEED design features, including alternative & renewable heating sources and power,

and will serve as a community gathering space as well as library (the only current indoor gathering spaces are a small rental hall, the fire station conference room, and a bar). The building design will lend itself to expansion should this be required in the future. Several public meetings on the design have incorporated community members' suggestions.

The library and associated outbuilding will be constructed in four main phases: first, a gazebo/outdoor shelter (begun 2008 and to be completed spring 2009); second, a mechanical room, a book room (later to become a conference room), offices, and a kitchenette (construction to begin 2009); third, the main collections area with masonry stove and underfloor radiant heating system (construction slated for 2010); and fourth, a secondary collections area with audiovisual room.

More information on the project is available at the library website (www.esterlibrary.org).

thank you,

Deirdre Helfferich (library board member)
for the Ester Community Association and John Trigg Ester Library
907.479.3368
E-mail: library@esterrepublic.com